

**COSTA MESA SANITARY DISTRICT
ORGANICS RECYCLING PROGRAM**

TOWN HALL MEETINGS

PUBLIC COMMENTS/QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

1. The proposed program will create odors.

A. The anaerobic digestion facility in Perris, California can accept biodegradable bags. Glad, the manufacturer of kitchen, storage and trash bags has available to consumers 100% compostable kitchen bags with a capacity of 2.6 gallons each that can fit in District supplied kitchen pails. The bags also have an odor shield. The bags come in a box of 20 at a cost of \$5.17 per box. These bags are currently available on the internet; however, if the organics recycling program is approved by the Board of Directors, staff will inform local Costa Mesa Stores like Target, Kmart, Albertsons, Vons and Ralphs about the organics program and encourage store managers to carry 100% compostable kitchen bags.

Glad also has 100% compostable tall kitchen bags with a capacity of 13 gallons available at Walmart in Huntington Beach (8230 Talbert Avenue). The bags come in a box of 10 at a cost of \$5.58 per box.

2. What are the penalties from the State for not complying with the new regulations?

A. If the State repeals green waste as alternative daily cover at landfills, the District's diversion rate will fall below 50%, which could jeopardize the City's mandated 50% landfill diversion. If the City falls below 50% diversion, it could be subject to fines from the State that can be as high as \$10,000 a day for being noncompliant.

3. The additional trucks will create more wear and tear on City streets.

A. Additional trucks will not create more wear and tear on City Streets because like all paved surfaces, street asphalt is susceptible to deterioration due to the long term exposure of the elements such as water, sunlight and chemical/petroleum exposure. More information about these elements is described below.

- *Water – Over time and especially without proper maintenance water penetrates the asphalt, washes out the base underneath it, causing it to crack, break down and collapse.*
- *Sunlight – Oxidation breaks down and dries out the once flexible liquid asphalt that holds the aggregate together. The causes raveling and shrinking cracks, which water to penetrate beneath the surface.*
- *Chemical/Petroleum – The introduction of chemicals to asphalt, such as gasoline and motor oil, can soften the asphalt and cause it to break down more rapidly. Doubling the mileage of CR&R trucks could increase the risk of a petroleum product spillage such as hydraulic fluid. However, this risk is insignificant when compared to the average daily vehicle trips identified in the City of Costa Mesa's General Plan. In 2000, the average daily vehicle trip on residential streets is 316,499 and the average daily trip is projected to increase by 22,594 in 2020. In addition, the City is expecting a 20% increase in traffic volume by 2020. Each CR&R truck contains a spill kit and drivers are train to contain petroleum spills from entering the storm drain. Spills are absorbed using absorbent products*

No asphalt is exempt from deterioration no matter how well it is constructed. Asphalt deterioration begins immediately. Even in normal conditions substantial deterioration can begin to take place after three to five years. Typically after five years the asphalt will be begin to turn gray, become brittle and start cracking. Then, water begins entering the cracks that will cause larger cracks and potholes. When street asphalt is maintained and protected well it will maximize its useful lifespan. Industry experts believe sealing the pavement with a quality asphalt or coal tar based sealant is the best way to protect the street investment. In fact, it is recommended by industry experts that new asphalt be sealed within 60 to 90 days of the application (after it has cured, hardened) to begin protecting it from the elements.

4. Is the District considering instituting a franchise fee to assist the City in maintaining streets?

A. No. A franchise fee will further increase rates.

5. There is not enough parking for rental neighborhoods and adding an additional container will make matters worse.

A. The District acknowledges that some multi-family units do not have landscaping. These units will be exempt from the program. Other multi-

family units may have their homeowner association responsible for the landscaping by having a hired gardener haul away green waste. These units may also be exempt from the program. Multi-family units that want an exemption from the program must contact the District in writing explaining the reasons for the exemption. District staff will visit the units to determine if the multi-family units are eligible for exemption or not. The general manager will grant exemptions on a case-by-case basis.

6. If I am exempt from the program will my rates still go up?

A. Rates will remain stabilized until June 30, 2015 and could remain stabilized for some years thereafter depending on how the Board allocates the District's solid waste reserve fund for rate stabilization. In the future, the Board may direct staff to bring back a plan for establishing a tiered rate system.

7. Why must Costa Mesa be the first city to experiment with this new technology? We should wait until a larger city uses the system and learn from their experience.

A. The benefit for being the first organization to use CR&R's anaerobic digestive (AD) system is so that CMSD is guaranteed the lowest AD rate at \$71.50 a ton. If CR&R negotiates a lower rate with another entity, CR&R must honor that rate with CMSD. The real cost to use the AD is \$125 a ton. Waiting for another entity to use this technology before CMSD means we will not be guaranteed to lowest rate, which could result in CMSD's AD rate being closer to the real cost of \$125 a ton.

8. Currently, we are in the worst recession, we are paying for health taxes, increased water rates and our gasoline has doubled in the last five years; therefore, I question the timing of this program?

A. The likelihood CMSD's cost for using AD technology will increase if we wait too long. Currently, CMSD is guaranteed the lowest AD rate at \$71.50 a ton.

9. Can you recycle bones such as chicken bones from Kentucky Fried Chicken?

A. Yes, the anaerobic digestion facility will accept poultry and meat bones.

10. How much separating am I going to have to do?

- A. *You do not have to separate your recyclables (e.g. glass, cans, plastic, paper, cardboard, etc.). Recyclables will continue to be mixed with your trash and later separated at CR&R's transfer station in the City of Stanton. If you are cutting your lawn, pruning trees, raking leaves, edging shrubs or any other type of gardening then you will be required to place your green waste in a separate organic container.*

You have the option of throwing food scraps such as fruits, vegetables, meats, bread, pasta, egg shells, rice, etc. in the organic or mixed waste container. If you want to throw food scraps in the organic container, the District has available kitchen pails where you can line it with biodegradable bags to control odors. There will be no fines and/or penalties from the District if you throw food scraps in the mixed waste container.

11. How many grants did CR&R receive? What was the value of those grants and when does CR&R expect to receive the grant funds?

- A. *CR&R received four grants totaling \$5 million that is applied to the construction of the AD facility and the grant nets out the true cost of utilizing this facility. CR&R will receive the grant funds when construction begins.*

12. How much does a new trash truck cost?

- A. *\$250 million because the trucks must be operated on alternative fuel (e.g. compressed natural gas, renewable natural gas, etc.) as mandated by the South Coast Air Quality Management District.*

13. How much does the District have in the reserve fund and what does the District use the reserve funds for?

- A. *Approximately \$4 million is available in the Solid Waste Reserve Fund. For the past two consecutive years, the District has used the reserve fund to lower trash rates from \$19.95 to \$18.00 a month.*

14. Why don't we encourage more source separating?

- A. *It's not cost effective to source separate every recyclable material such as glass, aluminum, paper, plastics, etc.*

15. CR&R mentioned the use of chemicals in the anaerobic digestion (AD) facility. Mixing chemicals with organics is not a good mixture.
- A. The AD facility is 100% natural. The chemicals in the facility are based on the demand from farmers that may want more phosphorus in the fertilizer the AD produces.*
16. Can you accept pest waste?
- A. Yes. As long as it's not in plastic grocery or trash bags. You can throw your pet waste away in 100% compostable bags and then throw the compostable bags in your organic cart. The AD facility will also accept kitty litter.*
17. How are you going to make people more aware about the program?
- A. If the Board approves the Organics Recycling Program, the District and CR&R will hold at least three community workshops to inform the public about the program. The January 11, 2014 town hall meeting is videotaped and available for viewing on the District's website. In addition, information about the program will be advertised in the District's newsletter, available at District booths during community events (e.g. Fish Fry, Community Run, Concerts in the Park) and possible radio and television coverage.*
18. In an effort to promote transparency, can the District and CR&R indicate they actively encourage these new regulations being placed on us?
- A. CR&R and the District did not promote state legislators to adopt a 75% diversion goal by 2020, nor did CR&R and the District encourage CalRecycle, the state agency responsible for administering solid waste in California, to consider repealing alternative daily cover and organics from entering the landfills. Many environmental groups such as Californians Against Waste and Natural Resources Defense Council are lobbying policy makers in Sacramento to adopt policies and programs that conserve resources, prevent pollution and protects the environment.*
19. You are retaining both mixed waste carts and now adding an organic cart, which seems counterintuitive to reducing waste. Doesn't adding a third cart increase capacity?

- A. *The path to zero waste is not about getting to zero waste, but rather it's about changing people's behavior to reducing waste. We believe many residents will realize they don't need a third cart and will return one of the mixed waste carts to CR&R. Through extensive outreach along with new and existing programs to encourage waste reduction, the District believes trash capacity will not increase.*

20. Proposed program seems like a done deal.

- A. *The proposed program was first presented to the Board for approval consideration on November 21, 2013. The Board did not approve the program on November 21st, but instead directed staff to inform the public about the program and report back the questions and/or concerns the public may have. Since November 21st, the District will have four town hall meetings to inform the public about the proposed program. The Board will consider the program for approval on February 25, 2014.*

21. What happens to the water that is used in the anaerobic digestion (AD) process?

- A. *Most of the water is recycled back into the AD facility. Water stays in the facility or it's used for making fertilizer.*

22. Why should we be paying more for the program because we will be required to do more by separating while CR&R is doing less?

- A. *CR&R is doing more by funding \$20 million to construct the anaerobic digestion facility, acquiring a new truck and making sure green waste is not contaminated.*

23. Can you bottle the carbon monoxide and sell it?

- A. *No. It's still not cost effective to sell carbon monoxide because CR&R will not make enough to be commercially viable.*

24. Will our rates go down after construction of the AD facility is complete?

- A. *Probably not. The financing for the AD facility is for 15 years and by then costs for upgrades will most likely be needed.*

25. What do I do with large tree limbs? Can I put them in the organic cart?

A. Yes. If you can fit tree limbs in the organic cart, CR&R will take the limbs to a tree grinder.

26. You mentioned that the District polled 1,000 people about solid waste. How can you justify this program by polling just 1,000 people? This program should be considered by a vote of the people.

A. Opinion polls do not require polling the entire population. A statistical sample size of the population will help determine the preferences of the entire population. A large sample size is not necessarily the better poll. On the other hand, a sample size may be too small to state anything meaningful about public opinion. According to the District's polling expert, Probolsky Research, polling 1,000 out of 21,500 CMSD households is a statistically valid sample size to reflect the community's opinion about solid waste and organics recycling.

27. The City of Newport Beach just awarded a contract to CR&R after conducting a bid process. As a result, Newport Beach residential rates will be \$11.00 a month per household. Why doesn't the san board go out to bid for solid waste services?

A. Comparing Newport Beach solid waste collection services with CMSD is like comparing apples to oranges. For instance, Newport Beach has a transfer station at its corporate yard that CR&R will be utilizing. In addition, CR&R is required to divert 45% of Newport Beach residential trash away from the landfill. Contact CR&R to obtain more information about the new contract with the City of Newport Beach.

28. I would like to see a facility where periodically free wood chips are made available to the public.

A. District staff is exploring this idea.

29. There are currently three incinerators in Southern California that are more economical for diverting waste from the landfill.

A. Trying to construct new incinerators will be nearly impossible due to cost (\$250 million to construct) and acquiring permits from the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

30. I'm concerned about slopping food in the bucket every week and then washing out the bucket.

A. The kitchen pails are available for convenience and are not recommended to store food scraps for a week. It is recommended that the pails are used while meal prepping and throwing away left overs and then after cleaning up from a meal, residents can take their pail full of food scraps to the organic cart to empty. After emptying the pail, the District recommends washing it out with soap and water just like cleaning dishes. Another option is to line the pail with 100% compostable bags.

31. I'm concerned food sitting in the cart and kitchen pail for a week will attract raccoons, rats, possums and other critters.

A. You should not store food scraps in the kitchen pail overnight. Empty the kitchen pail every day in the organic cart. Food odors will attract animals, but if the lid to the organic cart is closed tightly, meaning no air getting into the cart, then animals will not be attracted to it.

32. Can I pour used kitchen grease in the organic cart or do I still have to take it to the Orange Coast College Recycling Center?

A. You can do one or the other. Simply pour your grease in the organic cart, but please, do not throw plastic jugs and/or containers filled with grease in the cart because the anaerobic digestion facility cannot process plastics. You can also take your plastic jugs and/or containers filled with grease to OCC's Recycling Center where the grease will be collected and recycled into reusable products such as fuel, candles, pet food, etc.

33. A couple times a year I will have overgrown vegetation that will overwhelm the organic container. What can I do if I have more green waste than my container can hold?

A. The District has a green cub program where CR&R will drop off a temporary 3-yard bin at your home for half the price. For approximately \$50.24 residents can throw their grass clippings and landscape trimmings in the 3-yard bin. Please contact CR&R at 949-646-4617 or contact the District at 949-645-8400 to schedule delivery of a green cub.

34. How much less landfill space will be used as a result of the program?

A. The proposed program will recycle an additional 10,000 tons of solid waste per year. That is 10,000 tons that does not need to be managed and covered at the landfill by Orange County Waste & Recycle. This reduction in tonnage will save approximately 7.69 acres of landfill space per year and assists in lengthening the life of the landfill system.

35. What will this cost me?

A. Approximately an additional \$1.95 a month per household. However, the additional cost may not occur until July 1, 2015 and depending on the Board's decision for rate stabilization, the increase may be modest (e.g. \$0.50 a month per household), or the rates will not increase for several years because the District will use its solid waste reserve fund to offset costs.

36. Why can't alternative daily cover (ADC) be used in the anaerobic digestion facility?

A. ADC has broken glass and other contaminants that will not go through the anaerobic digestion facility.

37. What goes in each type of can?

A. The following materials can go in each can:



Organic Cart

- *Fruits & vegetables*
- *Meat, poultry and seafood*
- *Eggshells, rice, beans*
- *Bones (yes, bones)*
- *Waxed cardboard products (e.g. Chinese take-out boxes)*
- *Frozen/refrigerated food boxes*
- *Napkins, paper towels, paper plates*
- *Milk cartons, tea bags, coffee grounds, filters*
- *Bread, donuts, cookies, crackers, pizza crust, noodles (anything made out of flour)*
- *Grains (cooked or uncooked): rice, barley)*
- *Parchment and waxed papers*
- *Plants and flowers*

- *Pet waste if it's not in plastic grocery bags*
- *Biodegradable bags (100% compostable)*
- *All yard waste*

Mixed Waste Cart

Recyclables:

- *Glass (beverage, liquor, soda, juice, wine, jars)*
- *Metal (aluminum and tin)*
- *Plastics  thru *
- *Paper (cardboard, magazines, newspaper, cereal boxes,)*

Trash:

- *Ceramic*
- *Pet Waste*
- *Styrofoam*
- *Food trays*
- *Safety and plate glass*
- *Diseased plants*
- *Metal coat hangers*
- *Tupperware containers*
- *Flower/plant containers*
- *Mirrors*
- *Palm branches*
- *Diapers*
- *Plastic plates*
- *Mixed products (plastic/metal combination)*

38. What are the incentives for those who recycle?

A. *The following is a list of incentives:*

1. *Save \$96 a year for turning in a third mixed waste cart and \$192 a year if a third and fourth mixed waste cart is turned in.*
2. *Deliver your recyclable materials to Orange Coast College Recycling Center to receive monetary compensation.*
3. *Extend the lifespan of Orange County landfills.*
4. *Reduce greenhouse gas emission such as hydrocarbons, oxides of nitrogen (NO_x), carbon monoxide (CO), as well as carbon dioxide (CO₂) and reduce methane gas at landfills.*

39. Can we legislate decreasing the amount of packaging?
- A. CMSD does not have the authority to pass legislation that will decrease packaging material. Such legislation will have to be adopted by the State Legislature and signed into law by the Governor.*
40. Why doesn't CMSD seek competitive bids to solve the state mandate?
- A. The District believes that negotiations with CR&R will achieve fair and competitive rates for residents. As a result of negotiations, the District is guaranteed the lowest anaerobic digestion fee in Orange County and if CR&R negotiates a lower fee with another agency, the District is guaranteed the lower fee.*
41. If FOG is dumped in the container, it solidifies and coagulates, won't it become unsanitary?
- A. Solidified Fat Oil and Grease (FOG) can be thrown away in your mixed waste container were it will be taken to the landfill. Different types of FOG, such as turkey FOG or FOG used in fryers does not solidify. You can simply pour the FOG in your organic container or take it to the Orange Coast College Recycling Center.*
42. Will food waste be more problematic than FOG?
- A. No. The District will offer convenient methods (e.g. kitchen pails) and provide useful information on how to recycle food waste.*
43. If we get 30-40% of carts reduced will the cost too be reduced?
- A. During negotiations with CR&R, it was taken into consideration that some mixed waste carts will be returned to CR&R to be stored as inventory and used again. The returned carts were estimated as part of the lowered anaerobic digestion facility rate of \$71.50 a ton. The actual rate for anaerobic digestion is \$125.00 a ton.*
44. What size are our trash carts now?

- A. Most carts are 64 gallons; however, some residents have 90 gallon carts because they were grandfathered in when the District changed from manual to automated collection services. A small percentage of residents have 32 gallon carts. The organic cart will be 64 gallons.*
45. Would it be possible to get smaller carts?
- A. Yes. If requested, residents can receive a 32 gallon organic cart.*
46. Will this deter people from recycling and put more into the garbage disposal?
- A. We believe 90% of residents will participate in the organics recycling program. The remaining 10% will continue to throw away their food waste in the mixed waste carts or down the kitchen garbage disposal.*
47. Are you planning to have more RNG than you make?
- A. In the future, CR&R plans on making enough RNG to sell to consumers.*
48. What's driving the next phase; is it built with bonds or what funds?
- A. Building the next phases of anaerobic digestion facilities will depend on the number of client cities that participate in the program.*
49. Increasing the fee down the road, so most fees are upfront, why do we have to have a one-time fee?
- A. There is no one-time fee. The additional annual cost of roughly \$500,000 will be for every year the District is participating in the Organics Recycling Program. The Board will have the option of offsetting the additional cost by using solid waste reserve funds. The Board may decide to keep rates stabilized for several years by using the solid waste reserve funds, or they may decide to increase the rates in small increments every year.*
50. Is this going to generate a lot of odor?
- A. No. However, if residents are concern about odor they may use biodegradable bags to store food waste. The anaerobic digestion facility will accept 100% compostable bags. The bags can be purchased on-line (see*

links below) or you can buy the bags at Walmart in Huntington Beach off Talbert.

<http://www.walmart.com/ip/Glad-Small-Compostable-Biodegradable-2.6-Gal-Kitchen-Bags-20ct/16672419>

<http://www.glad.com/trash/recycling-bags/compostable-tall-kitchen-bags/>

<http://www.walgreens.com/store/c/glad-compostable-odorshield-bags-small-kitchen/ID=prod6145480-product>

http://www.target.com/p/glad-fresh-clean-compostable-odor-shield-small-kitchen-bags-20-ct/-/A-14736816#prodSlot=dlp_medium_1_1&term=compostable+trash+bags

51. If the start is in November, how does it affect the taxes?
- A. If the Board decides to increase the rates in small increments, then the new rate will be shown on your tax roll in November 2015.*
52. What country are the recycle bags made in?
- A. The Glad 100% compostable bags are made in the United States.*
53. Dog waste? How will it be disposed?
- A. The anaerobic digestion facility will accept dog waste, but the waste cannot be stored in a plastic bag unless the bag is 100% compostable.*
54. Will the Christmas tree recycling still be available?
- A. Yes. There will be no changes to the Christmas Tree Recycling Program.*
55. When the cans can get “groudy,” we need to hose them down, what happens with the residual waste in the cans, will it be left on the street?
- A. We recommend that when you wash out your organic cart please wash the cart on the ground or on your lawn. That way the water will go back into underground water table and not lost in the storm drain. In addition, we*

recommend you pickup any residue that is washed out of the cart and place it back into the organic cart.

56. Will we still be able to keep our current cans?

A. Yes.

57. Is green waste grass clippings? Will we be able to use our regular trash bags?

A. Yes. *We recommend that you dump your grass clippings in the organic cart without trash bags; however, if you want to store grass clippings in trash bags, please use 100% compostable bags. The Target store in Santa Ana on Bristol Street sells 30 gallon 100% compostable bags.*

58. How many bags in a box and how much do they cost?

A. *The 2.6 gallon bags from Glad that fit in kitchen pails have 20 bags to a box. The 13 gallon bags from Glad have 10 bags in a box.*

59. How do we determine what property is exempt from participation?

A. *Residents are encouraged to contact District staff in writing to schedule an appointment. A representative from the District will visit the property to determine if it is eligible for an exemption.*

60. Will this be unsanitary?

A. No. *The District and CR&R have established a proposed program that will not make trash disposal unsanitary.*

61. What about apartment complexes?

A. *If apartment complexes do not have landscaping or inadequate storage space they may be eligible for exemptions. Property management is encourage to contact the District in writing to schedule an appointment.*

62. How much solid waste fertilizer are you expected to produce and will it be on the market?

- A. The primary user of the fertilizer will be farmers, but CR&R does plan on making the fertilizer available to its client cities.*
63. What do you do with the rolling carts, and the potential crowding of space?
- A. If space is limited, the property owner may consider smaller organic carts or the District can perform a trash audit of the property to determine if one mixed waste cart is all that is needed at the property.*
64. How long will we get the lowest rates from CR&R? 6 years or as long as we're with CR&R?
- A. The lowest rate is for the anaerobic digestion (AD) facility. Normal cost at the AD is \$125.00 a ton, but the District successfully negotiated a rate of \$71.50 a ton. This rate is the lowest rate negotiated with CR&R and according to the terms of the agreement, if CR&R negotiates a lower rate with another client they must honor the lower rate with CMSD. The lowest AD rate is guaranteed throughout the term of the agreement, which is a minimum of six years.*
65. Is the District purchasing compostable bags in bulk?
- A. No. The District does not intend on purchasing compostable bags. If the program is approved by the Board, the District will notify suppliers (e.g. Target, Albertson, Vons, Stater Brothers, Walgreens, etc.) that an organics recycling program has been approved and will encourage local stores to start stocking 100% compostable bags.*
66. Can CR&R put locks in our organics containers?
- A. Yes. CR&R has lockable containers available for organics.*
67. Can we place dog poop in the organics cart?
- A. Yes, but it cannot be placed in plastic bags unless the bags are 100% compostable.*
68. Is the semi-truck that is going to go from Stanton to Parris a CNG/LNG vehicle?
- A. Semi-trucks hauling the organics from Stanton to Perris will be powered by diesel gasoline. CR&R is planning on converting their semi-trucks from diesel*

to liquid natural gas (LNG), which is a clean burning and environmentally friendly fuel.

69. For those residents who do not have room or space for an organics cart, will they be exempt from the program?

A. Yes. However, residents will be required to contact CMSD in writing to request an appointment where a CMSD staff person will visit the property to determine if the property owner is entitled to receive an exemption.

70. Is this a done deal?

A. No. The Board of Directors decision regarding the organics recycling program has been postponed twice (November 21, 2013 and January 23, 2014). The Board wants to hear from the public about their concerns and determine if those concerns can be addressed before making a decision.

71. Can we have other people do this for us?

A. No other waste hauler company in Orange County has a program that can collect residential food waste from the curbside and convert this material into renewable natural gas.

72. What is the anticipated level of compliance?

A. 90%

73. Is CR&R going to remove the phthalates from the soil amendment?

A. If farmers want CR&R to remove phthalates from the soil amendment, they will.

74. Why isn't the City charging gardeners a business license?

A. Don't know.

75. Is RNG cleaner than CNG?

A. Renewable Natural Gas (RNG) works like Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) where the gas is compressed to less than one percent of the volume it occupies at standard atmospheric pressure. It is stored and distributed in hard containers at a pressure of 200–248 bar (2,900–3,600 psi), usually in cylindrical or spherical. The emissions from RNG are

similar to CNG where fewer particular matter and nitrogen oxide is emitted into the atmosphere when compared to diesel powered refuse trucks. According to INFORM, a non-profit group that educates the public about the effects of human activity on the environment and public health, CNG refuse trucks reduce Particulate matter by 67%-94% and Nitrogen oxides by 32%-73%. RNG will achieve the same results. In addition, there is a benefit to RNG that CNG cannot provide. According to South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD), RNG will reduce greenhouse gas emissions of hydrocarbons, oxides of nitrogen (NOx), carbon monoxide (CO), as well as carbon dioxide (CO₂).

76. Is the CMSD Board going to re-approve the Environmental Impact Report since the first report was incorrect? Will the Board reconsider the environmental impact?

A. *Yes. The District did not file the environmental findings with the County Clerk because additional information was brought to staff's attention at the January 23, 2014 Board of Directors meeting. An amended review of the environmental impacts for implementing an Organics Recycling Program in the Costa Mesa Sanitary District service area will be presented to the Board on February 25, 2014.*

77. Can this program be done in a single pass?

A. *No. The proposed organics recycling program cannot be implemented using the current single stream method because anaerobic digestion is a process where microorganisms break down organic material in the absence of oxygen. The breakdown of organic material cannot occur if organics are contaminated from trash materials such as Styrofoam, plastic grocery bags, clothing, broken glass, plaster, dry paint cans, window glass, etc. Therefore, the organics need to be separated and will require two refuse trucks in CMSD neighborhoods.*

78. How can we apply for an exemption if the first EIR was incorrect?

A. *The District did not file a categorical exemption with the County Clerk because new information was brought to staff's attention.*

79. Do we have a study that shows what the EIR impact will be on the District? Not the overall -15 impact but within the District boundaries? If so, has this report been available to the public?

- A. *A revised environmental report will be prepared with staff's findings regarding noise, street deterioration, traffic, emissions, RNG and alternatives. The report will be made available to the public on Friday, February 21, 2014.*
80. Since green waste will no longer be allowed for ADC, have we analyzed where Counties will be getting their dirt from?
- A. *Staff assumes the County will be getting their dirt at the landfills.*
81. Why are we doing this program? What is the bottom line?
- A. *Listed below are the reasons for implementing an organics recycling program.*
1. Save landfill space and extend the lifespan of Orange County landfills. The Olinda Landfill in the City of Brea is scheduled to close in fifteen years.
 2. Response to State regulations requiring State facilities to achieve 75% diversion by 2020.
 3. Works toward achieving the District goal of 75% diversion by 2015 and 90% diversion by 2020.
 4. 81.6% of 1,000 residents surveyed indicated their support to increasing trash diversion away from landfills from 54% to 75%.
 5. Promotes the community being on a path to zero waste and encourages residents to change their behaviors on recycling.
 6. Being the first customer in CR&R's organics recycling program guarantees the lowest anaerobic digestion rate.